

News Release

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Ohio*

For Release:

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Gregory A. White, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, today announced that a federal grand jury in Cleveland returned a 51-count indictment, charging the following individuals:

Defendant	Address	Age
NASSER M. KAHOOK aka Norman	4321 Brookview Court Uniontown, Ohio 44685	45
ABDEL NASSER JUDEH aka Nino	172 Indian Hills Drive Tallmadge, Ohio 44278	37
GUY M. BOCIAN	1760 Krumroy Road Akron, Ohio 44312	55
IHAB TRAISH	80 N. Portage Path, Apt. 7a1 Akron, Ohio 44303	26
MOHAMMAD RIBHI KAHOOK, aka Mike Al Khuq	230 Indian Hills Drive Tallmadge, Ohio 44278	24
JAMES HIGGINBOTTAM aka Reverend Jim	809 Biruta Street Akron, Ohio 44307	61
JOHN GHEITH	1206 Austin Avenue Akron, Ohio 44306	57
NUNZIE V. FRAGOLA	4545 Commodore Drive Stow, Ohio 44224	82

in a money laundering conspiracy indictment based on cigarette rebate fraud, and gambling activity occurring in the Akron, Ohio, area between 2001 and 2005. The charges by defendant are summarized as follows:

U.S. Code Title	Name of Statute	Individuals charged
18 USC 371/1341	Mail Fraud Conspiracy 5 years/\$250,000	Nasser Kahook Abdel Nasser Judeh Guy Bocian Mohammad Ribhi Kahook
18 USC 1341	Mail Fraud 20 years/\$250,000	Abdel Nasser Judeh Nasser Kahook
18 USC 1956(a)(1)(h)	Money Laundering Conspiracy 20 years/Value of Funds or \$500,000	Nasser Kahook Abdel Nasser Judeh Guy Bocian Mohammad Ribhi Kahook
18 USC 1957	Money Launder Instruments greater than \$10,000. 10 years/\$250,000	Abdel Nasser Judeh Nasser Kahook
18 USC 1955	Illegal Gambling Business 5 years/\$250,000 Forfeiture of Machines and Money Used in Business	Nasser Kahook Ihab Traish John M. Geith James Higgenbottam Nunzie V. Fragola
18 USC 371/1955	Gambling Conspiracy 5 years/\$250,000 Forfeiture of Proceeds Earned	Nasser Kahook Ihab Traish John M. Geith James Higgenbottam Nunzie V. Fragola
18 USC 1956(a)(1)(h)	Money Laundering Conspiracy 5 years/\$250,000	Nasser Kahook Ihab Traish John M. Geith James Higgenbottam Nunzie V. Fragola
18 USC 215(a)(1) and 2	Financial Institution Bribery 30 years/\$1,000,000	Nasser Kahook

42 USC 408(a)(3)	Social Security Fraud 5 years/\$250,000	Mohammad Ribhi Kahook
18 USC 1001	False Statement to Government 5 years/\$250,000	Mohammad Ribhi Kahook

If convicted, each defendant's sentence will be determined by the Court after review of factors unique to this case, including the defendant's prior criminal record, if any, the defendant's role in the offense and the characteristics of the violation. In all cases the sentence will not exceed the statutory maximum and in most cases it will be less than the maximum.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney J. Matthew Cain, following an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, Social Security Administration Inspector General, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Criminal Investigation Division and U. S. Postal Inspection Service.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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